

Capsule Summary

Inventory No. WA-HAG-239

Hagerstown's Market House

31 West Church Street

Washington County, MD

Ca. 1928

Access: Public

The Hagerstown Farmers Market is located on the south side of the first block on West Church Street. The main, or public entrance of the Market faces west overlooking a municipal parking lot. The vendor entrance is on the east side of the building facing Market Place Alley. The market was constructed in 1928 when City officials determined they needed the entire City Hall building on the corner of Franklin and Potomac streets for government operations. The land for the Market building and the municipal parking lot to its west was purchased from 13 different property owners between October 1926 and June 1927. The Market House is a large building approximately 300 feet long and 120 feet wide. The building is divided in half with the Market occupying the southern end while the Hagerstown Fire Department occupies the north end. The north end of the Market building was once a restaurant.

Hagerstown's Farmers Market is significant as symbolizing Hagerstown's longstanding role as a "market town." Hagerstown's market house was established in 1783 and according to city records, has operated continuously since. From its early days, Hagerstown was a "Market Town," a place that was a center for trade and commerce for the surrounding agricultural region. The current market building, the third in the city's history, was constructed in 1928 and also carries significance for its architecture as an example of a large-span brick building with design elements reflecting the industrial yet classical character of 1920s commercial/industrial

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architecture. Thus Hagerstown's Market House is both historically and architecturally significant (National Register Criteria A,C).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-HAG-239

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Hagerstown's Market House
other Farmer's Market or Municipal Market

2. Location

street and number 31 West Church Street not for publication
city, town Hagerstown vicinity
county Washington County

3. Owner of Property (gives names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name City of Hagerstown
street and number One East Franklin Street telephone (301) 739-8577
city, town Hagerstown state MD zip code 21740-4987

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber 175 folio 659
city, town Hagerstown tax map 306 tax parcel 185 tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☒ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	1	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				0	

7. Description

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Condition

<input type="checkbox"/>	excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>	deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	good	<input type="checkbox"/>	ruins
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Hagerstown Farmers Market is located on the south side of the first block on West Church Street. The main, or public entrance of the Market faces west overlooking a municipal parking lot. The vendor entrance is on the east side of the building facing Market Place Alley. The market was constructed in 1928 when City officials determined they needed the entire City Hall building on the corner of Franklin and Potomac streets for government operations. The land for the Market building and the municipal parking lot to its west was purchased from 13 different property owners between October 1926 and June 1927. The Market House is a large building approximately 300 feet long and 120 feet wide. The building is divided in half with the Market occupying the southern end while the Hagerstown Fire Department occupies the north end. The north end of the Market building was once a restaurant.

The Market House is built on a gentle slope with the north end foundation at street level and the south end foundation raised about eight feet above ground level. The south end of the Market building has a stone foundation with grapevine style pointing while the foundation on the north end is constructed of concrete. There is a parking garage in the basement with an entrance on the south end of the building. The walls of the Market House are constructed with rough red bricks laid in a common bond pattern interspersed with an occasional dark brown brick giving the walls a mottled appearance. The east and west walls are divided into 13 equal bays by brick pilasters, and the base of these walls are corbelled in for four courses between these pilasters. There are three concrete bands or belt courses across the north end of the building and both ends of the building have parapets. A concrete platform and ramp have been constructed on the west side of the building to improve access to the market section. The Market House was designed to take advantage of natural light. A 60-foot wide longitudinal section in the center of the roof structure is raised about eight feet above the rest of the roof for the entire length of the building. The walls of this raised roof structure are steeply sloped (similar to a Mansard roof) and are covered with translucent fiberglass. The original structure was probably enclosed with glass windows. All of the windows in the building have metal frames. The windows in the side walls of the building have 26 panes of glass about 12" x 18" with the center six panes mounted in a movable sash for ventilation purposes. The window openings on the north end of the building have been bricked shut. There is a brick chimney approximately five feet square on the southwest corner of the raised roof area.

The interior of the market is strictly functional with a bare concrete floor and exposed roof trusses and piping approximately 12 feet above the floor level. The seller stalls appear to be temporary (though some may have been in the same location for years) and could be move about to accommodate the vendor's needs. There is a large brass plaque on the interior's west wall near the north end of the building that has a 1928 construction date and the names of the City's Mayor and Council members at the time of construction. The Market House still functions as such with the City's Farmer's Market open each Saturday morning.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates	1783	Architect/Builder
Construction dates	1928	

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Hagerstown's Farmers Market is significant as symbolizing Hagerstown's longstanding role as a "market town." Hagerstown's market house was established in 1783 and according to city records, has operated continuously since. From its early days, Hagerstown was a "Market Town," a place that was a center for trade and commerce for the surrounding agricultural region. The current market building, the third in the city's history, was constructed in 1928 and also carries significance for its architecture as an example of a large-span brick building with design elements reflecting the industrial yet classical character of 1920s commercial/industrial architecture. Thus Hagerstown's Market House is both historically and architecturally significant (National Register Criteria A,C).

A farmers market was established in Hagerstown by the general assembly of Maryland in 1783. Three commissioners were appointed to oversee construction and regulation of a market house. The minimum dimensions given for the market house were 50' x 30'. These commissioners were also authorized to hire a clerk to enforce the rules of the market.¹ The Market House was actually a combination of market and courthouse 60 feet square constructed in the center of the "Square" of the city in 1783. The market was located on the ground floor of the building while the courthouse occupied the second-story. The building had a cupola with a weather vane (see photo 1) shaped like a soldier and nicknamed "Little Heiskell" by the townspeople.² This first Market House served the community until the early 1820s when a larger Market House was built on the southeast corner of North Potomac and East Franklin Streets, one block north of the square. The Courthouse moved to a new location on the southeast corner of West Washington and Jonathan Streets, one block west of the square.

The town's second Market House lot was purchased by the City of Hagerstown in 1821 for one thousand dollars. The cornerstone for the new building was laid on June 24, 1821, and the market was moved to the uncompleted Market House in December of the same year. It would be nearly two years before the Market House building would be finished at which time the Town Hall and Masonic Hall Lodge No. 33 took up occupancy above the market.³ The Farmers Market operated at the Franklin Street location for a little over 100 years. Thomas J. C. Williams reports in his book, A History of Washington County, Maryland, "during the [Civil] War the use of the Market House was discontinued, and for twelve or fifteen years there was no public market in Hagerstown." There is some data that refutes this prolonged closure. Minutes from the Mayor and Council meetings reveal that several Market Masters were appointed between 1862 and 1865. The minutes also show that stall purchases and market space rentals were also discussed at the town meeting during this time period.⁴

¹ Norma J. Parks. "A History of Hagerstown City Farmers Market," City of Hagerstown, Hagerstown, MD., 1999. p. 1.

² Thomas J. C. Williams. A History of Washington County, Maryland (Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968) reprinted. p.166

³ Ibid. p.167.

⁴ Parks, p. 5.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Hagerstown's Market House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Early in the 20th century the government, population, and market had grown enough to warrant building a new market house. The question of buying a new market site was placed on the ballot by the City's government to be voted on at the March 1926 election. The decision to purchase the present Church Street site was made at a special meeting of the Mayor and Council on May 27, 1926.⁵ The land for the new Market House and adjacent municipal parking lot was acquired from thirteen different property owners between October 1926 and June 1927.⁶ The city government passed an ordinance in August 1926 authorizing the issuance of "\$150,000 par value of Hagerstown Market Building Bonds." A plaque in the Market House states that the building was erected in 1928.

Hagerstown's 1928 market house continues the long-held tradition of bringing local agricultural products to the public and providing an opportunity for commerce. Although today's market competes with numerous other retail outlets, the tradition of the farmers' market remains intact each Saturday morning at the market house.

Note: For Historical Context, please refer to *An Agricultural History of Mid-Maryland*, a Maryland Historical Trust grant funded context development project administered through The Catoclin Center for Regional Studies, 2002-2003.

⁵ Mayor and Council Minutes, City of Hagerstown, 1926 – 1928, Vol. 5.

⁶ Washington County Land Records

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WA-HAG-239

Mayor and Council Minutes, City of Hagerstown, 1926 – 1928, Vol. 5.
Parks, Norma J. "History of Hagerstown City Farmer's Market." Hagerstown City Hall, Unpublished Report. 1999.
Washington County Land Records/ Washington Co. Courthouse, Hagerstown, MD
Williams, Thomas J. C. A History of Washington County, Maryland. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1968.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>2.03</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>2.03</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Hagerstown</u>	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24'000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The surveyed property includes the entire Parcel #185, as described in Washington Co. Land Records Liber 175, Folio 659, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, and Liber 176, Folio 143, and Liber 177, Folio 436. The nominated area contains the entire property now associated with the current Farmers' Market of Hagerstown.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	<u>Daniel Jackson and Paula S. Reed, PhD.</u>	
organization	<u>Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.</u>	date <u>May 12, 2003</u>
street & number	<u>105 North Potomac Street</u>	telephone <u>(301) 739-2070</u>
city or town	<u>Hagerstown</u>	state <u>Maryland</u>

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WA-HAG-239

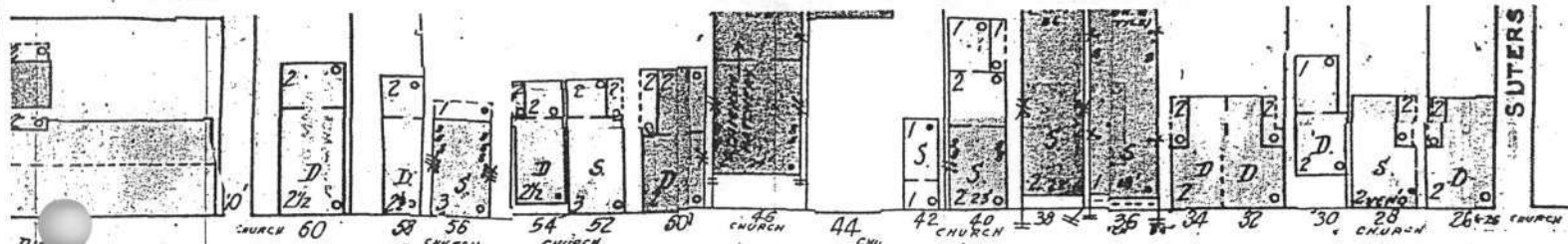
Name Hagerstown Market House
Continuation Sheet

Number 4 Page 1

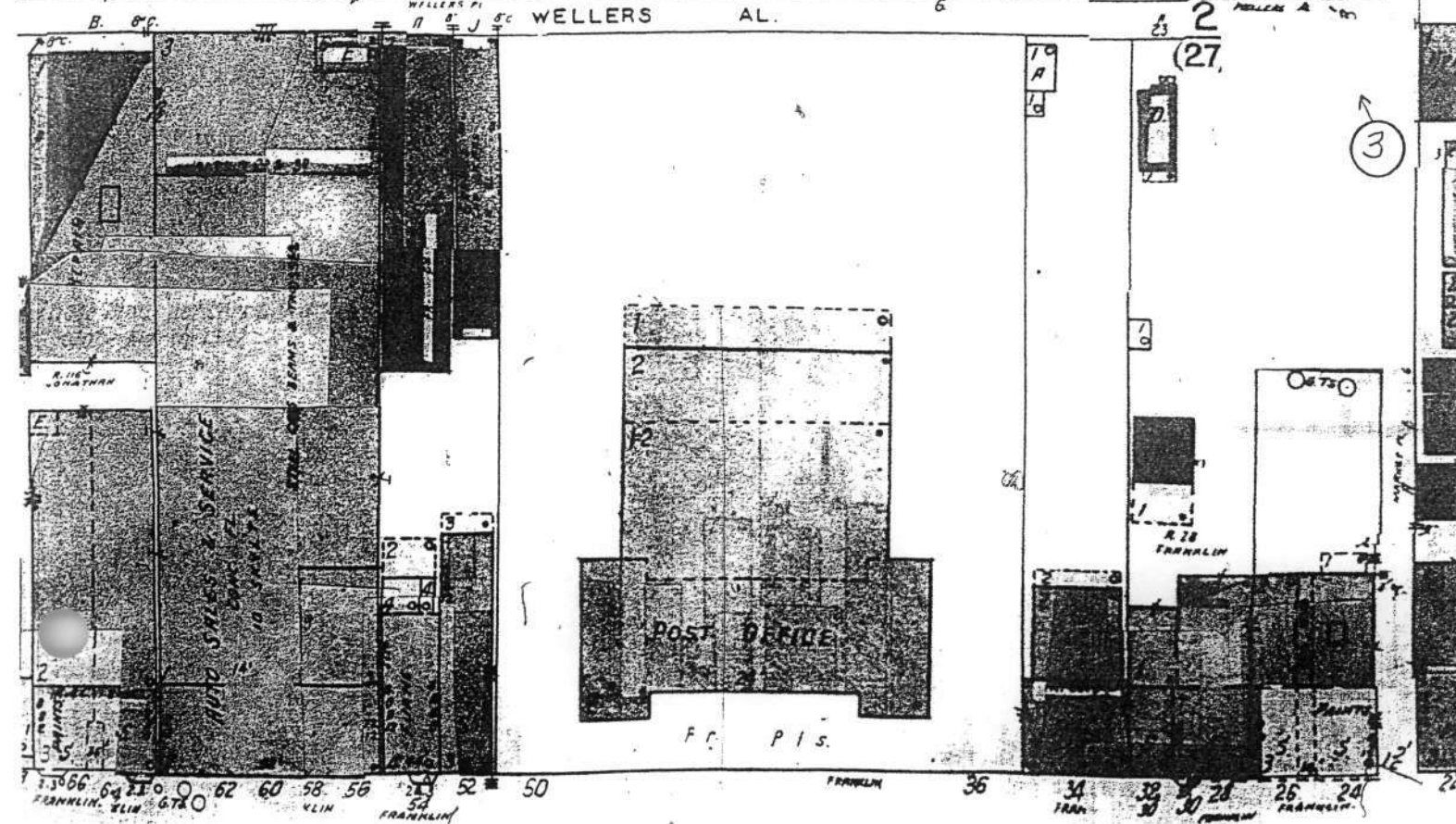
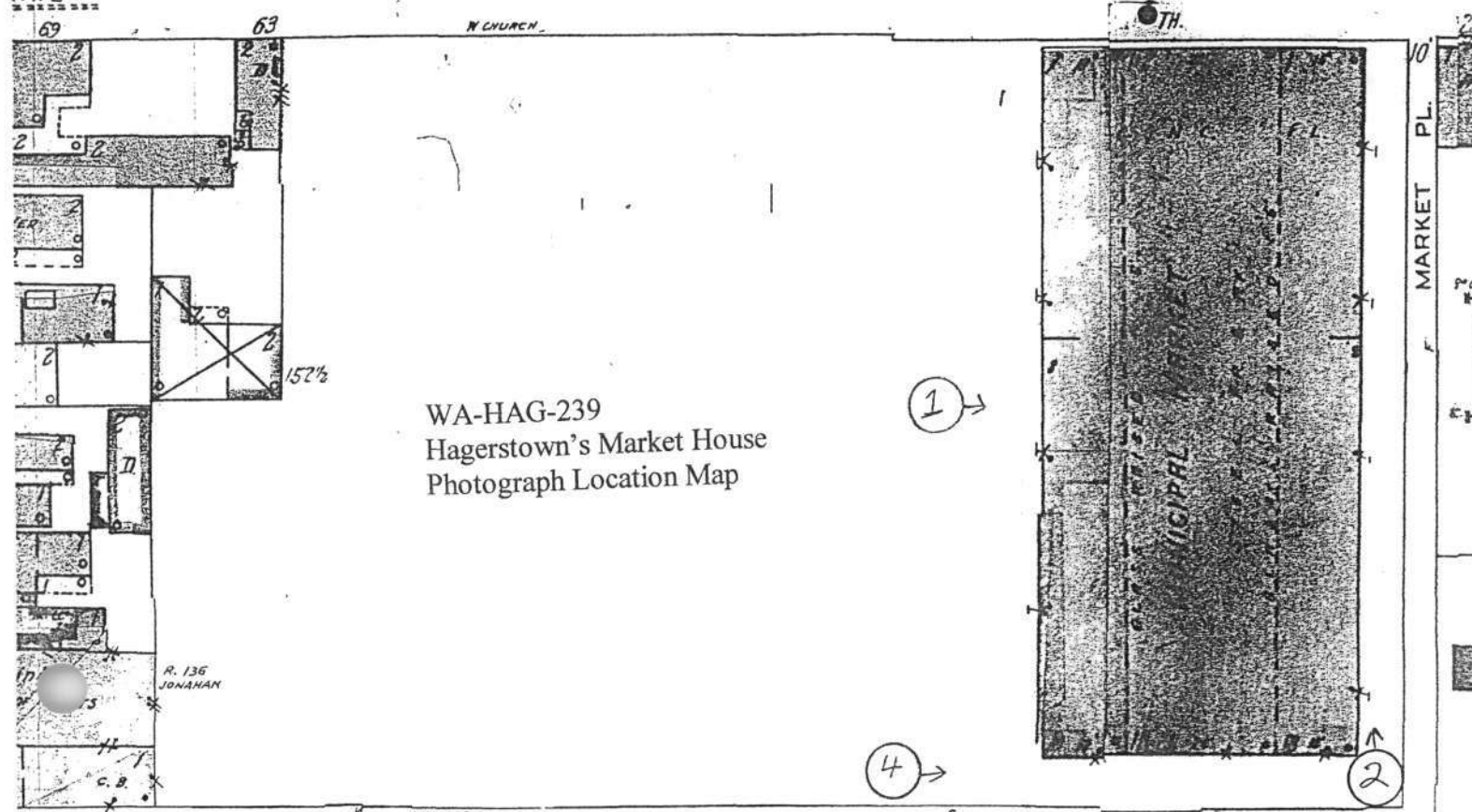
Liber 175, Folio 665, 666, 667, 668, & 669

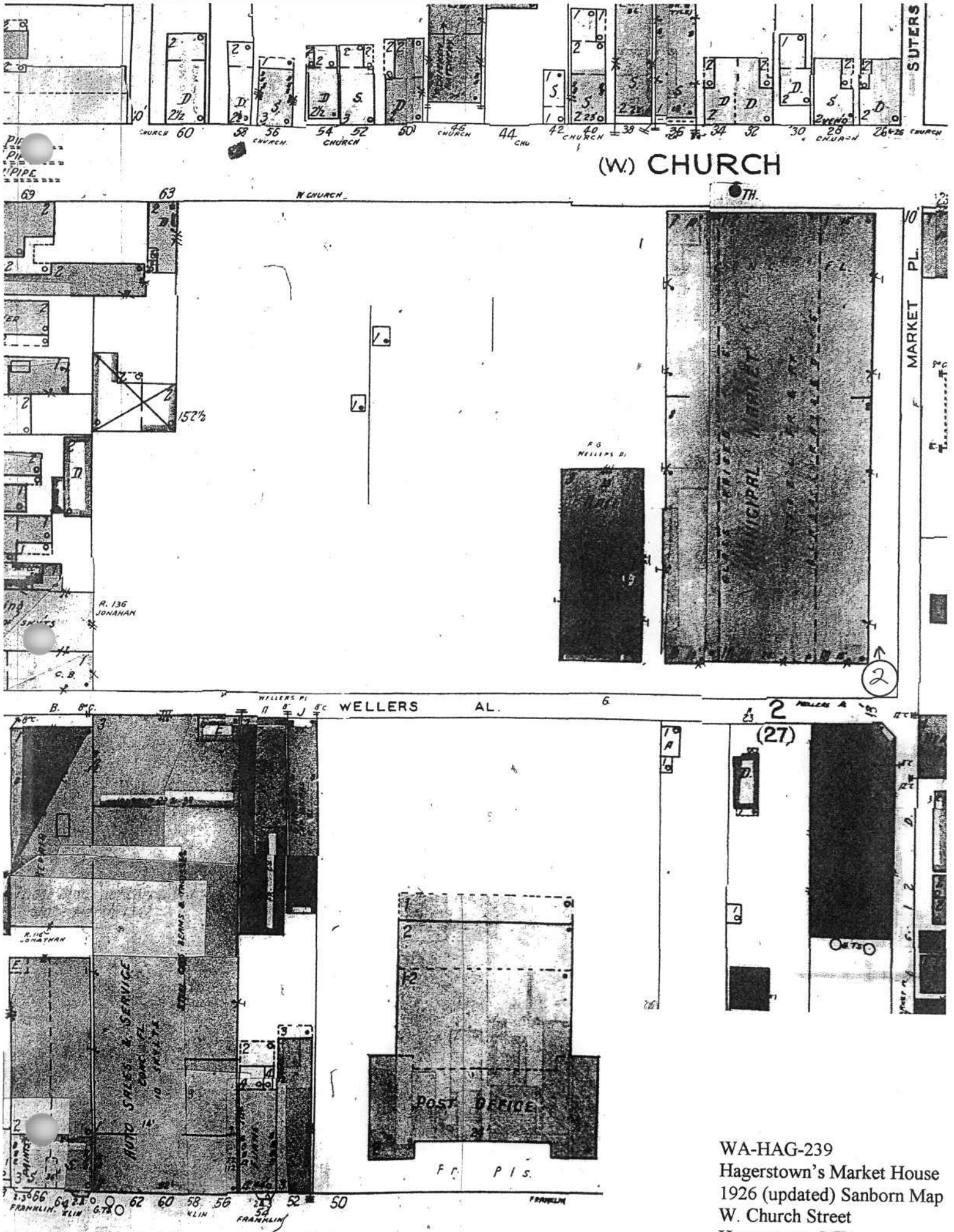
Liber 176, Folio 143

Liber 177, Folio 436

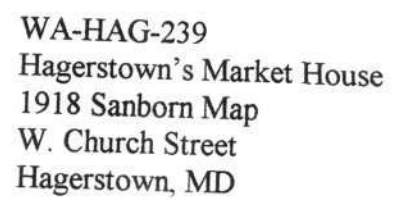


(W) CHURCH





WA-HAG-239
Hagerstown's Market House
1926 (updated) Sanborn Map
W. Church Street
Hagerstown, MD



1926

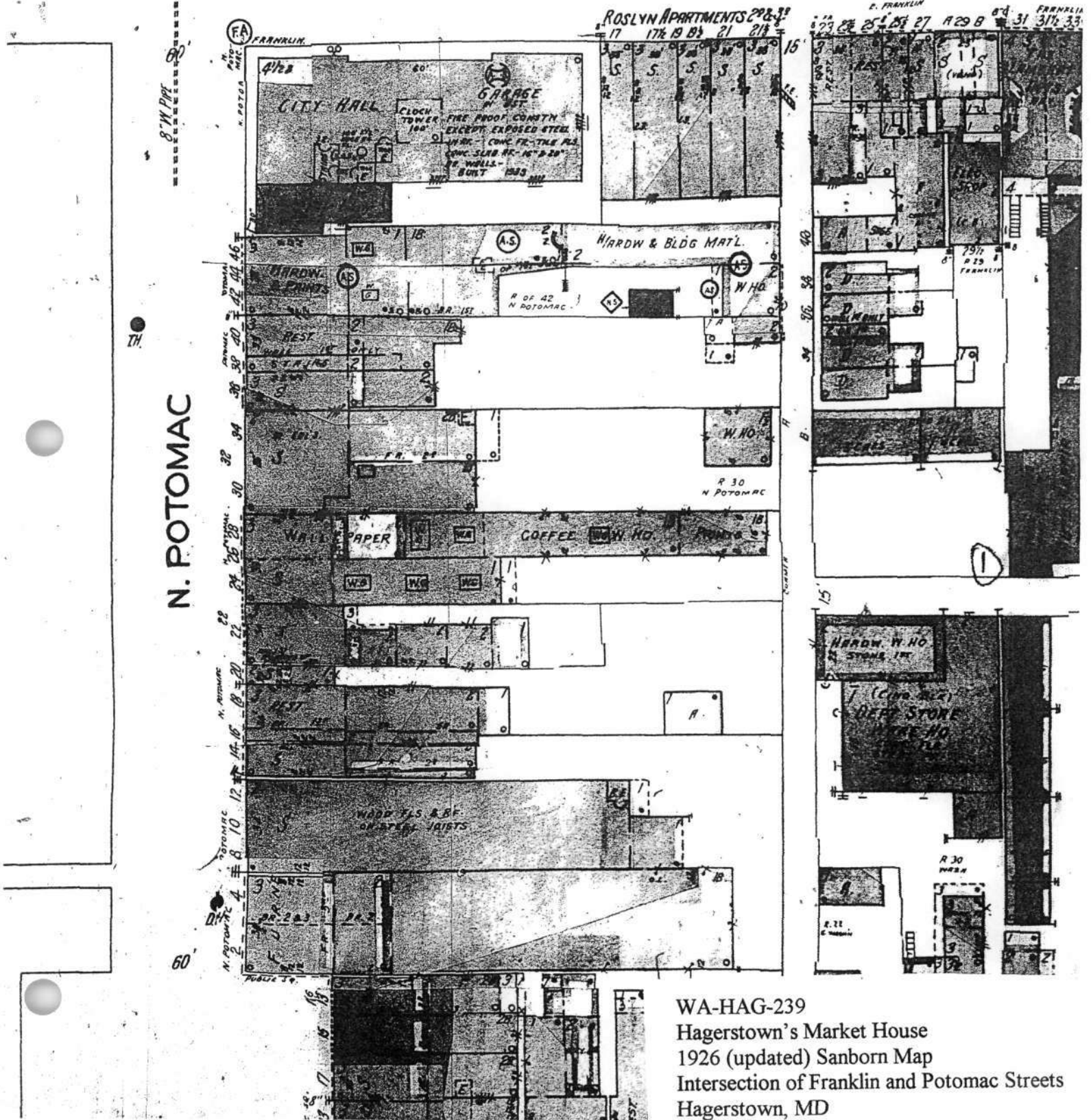
9

E. FRA

FRANKLIN ST. 8" W.P.

10" W. PIPE

N. POTOMAC



WA-HAG-239

Hagerstown's Market House

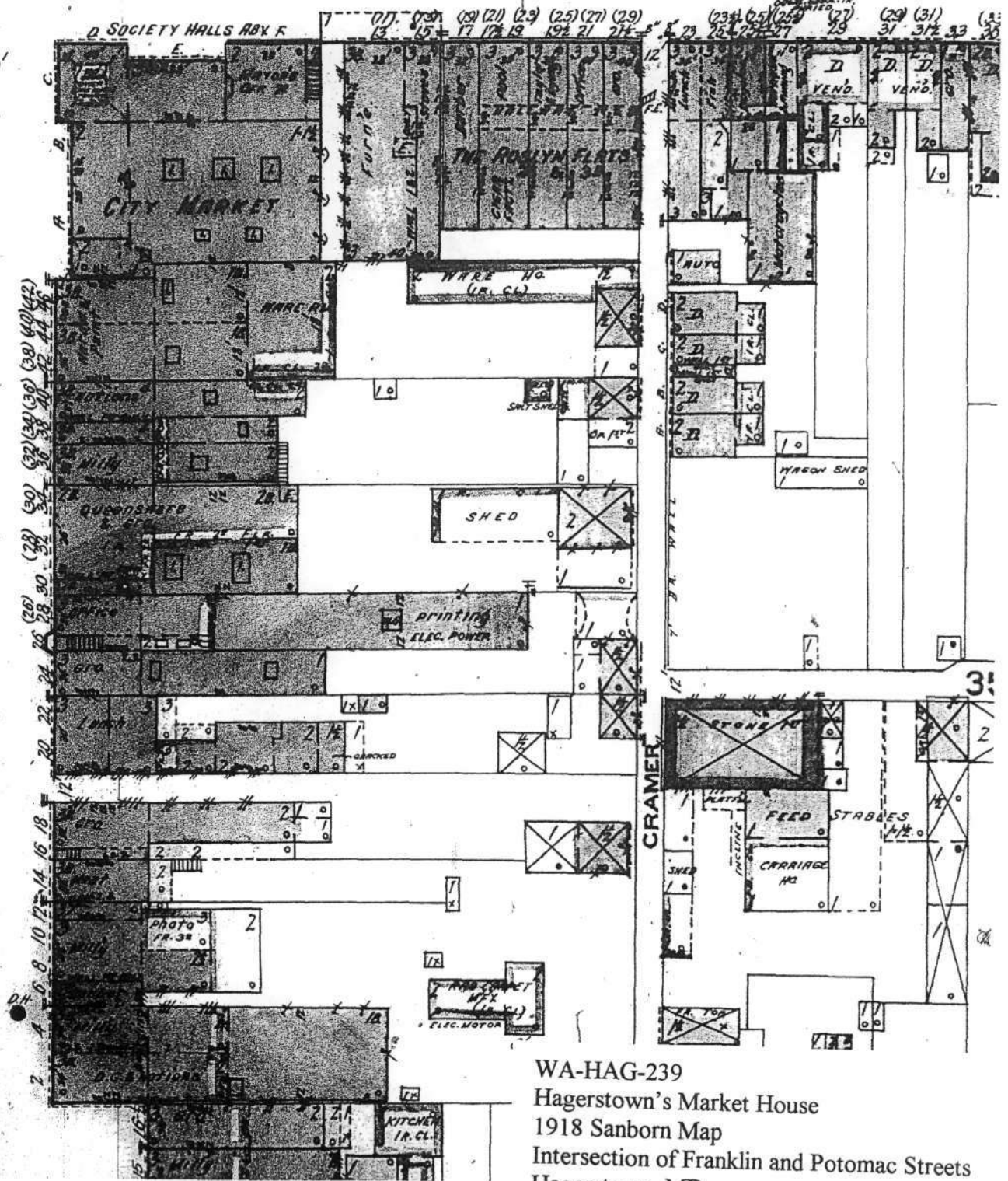
1926 (updated) Sanborn Map

Intersection of Franklin and Potomac Streets

Hagerstown, MD

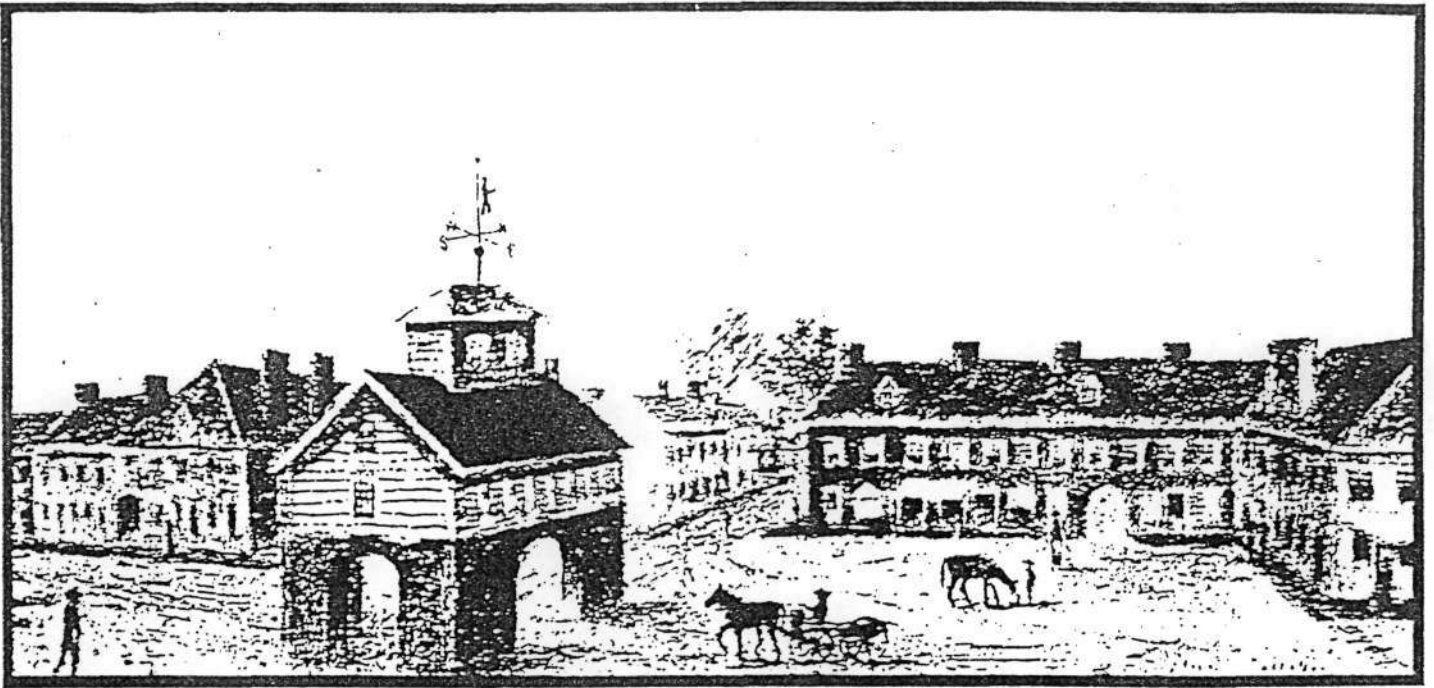


N. POTOMAC



WA-HAG-239
Hagerstown's Market House
1918 Sanborn Map
Intersection of Franklin and Potomac Streets
Hagerstown, MD

Fig.1
Drawing of the Earliest Market Constructed on
the Square 1783



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Hagerstown's Market House
History of Hagerstown City Farmers' Market
Norma J. Parks
City of Hagerstown



HAG- WA -239
 Hagerstown's Market House
 31 West Church Street
 Hagerstown, Washington County, MD
 Hagerstown Quad

FARMERS' MARKET
EST. 1791
Oldest Active Farmers' Market in Maryland

THIS PLATFORM FOR
LOADING-UNLOADING
20 MINUTE LIMIT

WELCOME
FARMER'S MARKET
1791

FARMER'S MARKET
OPEN SATURDAY 5:00 A.M.
FREE PARKING ON SATURDAY
← ADDITIONAL PARKING

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Hagerstown's Farmers Market
Washington Co., MD
Daniel Jackson

5/2003

MD SHPO

View - Farmers Market - west facade, public
entrance

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WA-HAG-239

Hagerstown's Farmers Market

Washington Co., MD

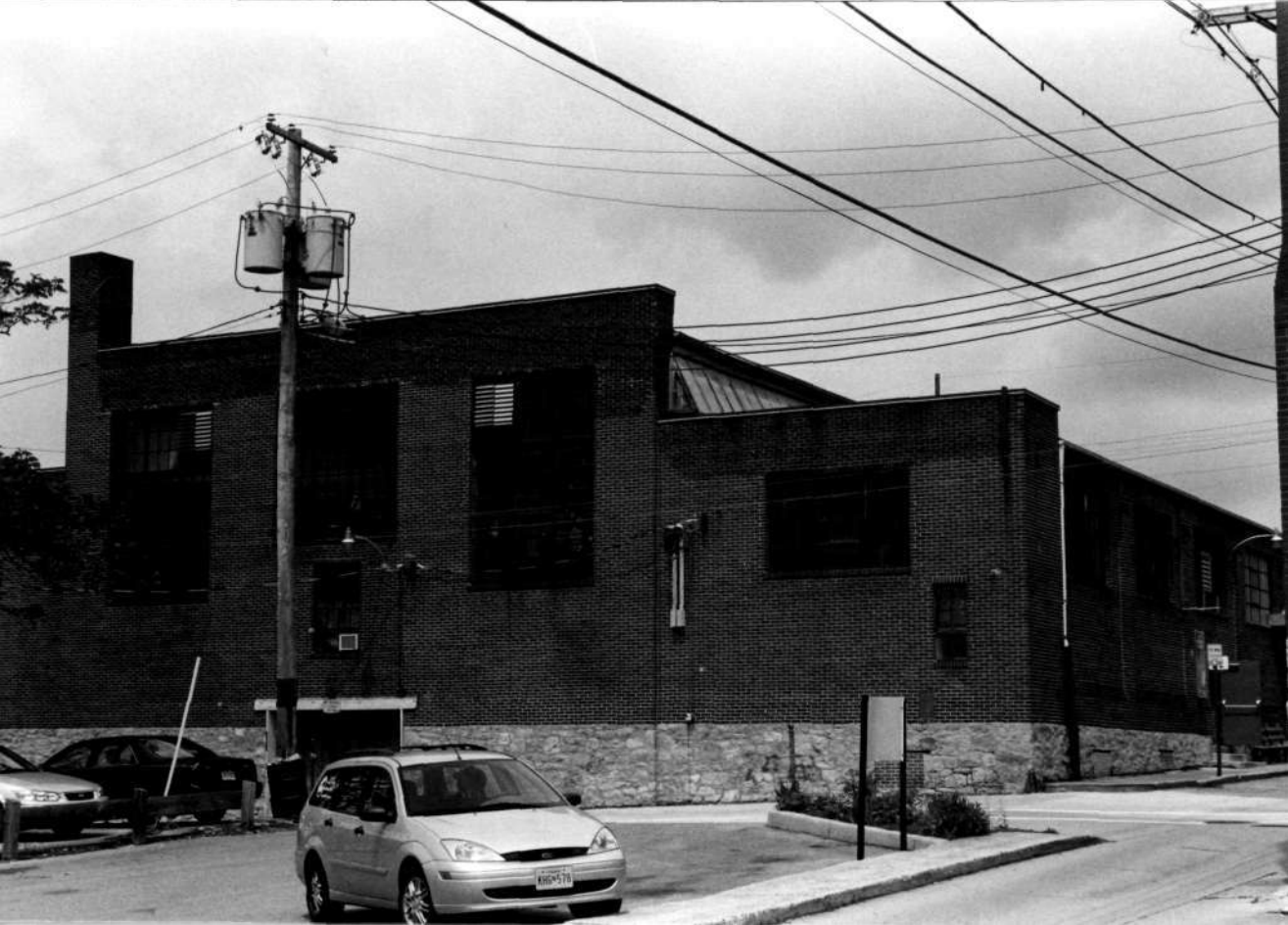
Daniel Jackson

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MD SHPO

View - north on Market Place Alley, Farmers
Market, east facade

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Hagerstown's Farmers Market
Washington Co., MD
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MD SHPO

View - Farmers Market, south facade

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WA-HAG-239

Hagerstown's Farmers Market

Washington Co., MD

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MD SHPO

View - east. Farmers Market. south facade

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Hagerstown's Farmers Market
Washington Co., MD
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5/2003

MD SHPO

View - Market office - camera facing southwest
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Hagerstown's Farmers Market

Washington Co., MD

Daniel Jackson

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MD SHPO

View - vendor stalls on west side of
Market, camera facing north

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Hagerstown's Farmers Market

Washington Co., MD

Daniel Jackson

5/2003

MD SHPO

View - vendor stalls on east side of
Market - camera facing northeast

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WA-HAG-239

Hagerstown's Farmers Market

Washington Co., MD

Daniel Jackson

5/2003

MD SHPO

View - metal truss system for Market's
roof

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MUNICIPAL
MARKET
ERECTED 1928

MAYOR

CHARLES E. BOWMAN

CITY COUNCIL

REUBEN MUSEY

CHAIRMAN

J. HARRY SCHUELER

C. ELMER KIRACOFE

HERBERT W. MCELWEE

ALLEN A. HARBAUGH

WA-HAG-239

Hagenstown's Farmers Market

Washington Co., MD

Daniel Jackson

5/2003

MD SHPO

View - dedication plaque - Market's interior
west wall - north end of building

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